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SE Rv Showcase

HD **Nature's playground: outdoor adventure in Peace Country**

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Northern Alberta plays host to more than 1.5 million visitors each year, laying some truth behind the ancient Beaver Indian legend that says "drink the water of the Peace River and you will return."

Abundant lakes, forests and wildlife are the main catalysts behind a growing northern tourism industry here. Nature's playground simply doesn't get any better than this.

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"The Mighty Peace provides an all-round outdoor adventure," says Nicole Halvorson, executive director of the Mighty Peace Tourist Association. "We want everyone in the world to know what a beautiful part of Canada we live in."

The region offers everything from trail riding to fishing; jet boating to bird watching; world-class hunting to gold panning.

For the RV enthusiast, a range of adventures is on your doorstep. Outrageously long summer nights are the perfect backdrop to a wonderful summer vacation that might include boating, quadding, hiking, biking and swimming.

Fish hundreds of kilometres of the Peace River or the more than 50 lakes, rivers and ponds for a true northern fishing experience.

More than 200 kinds of waterfowl and birds offer tremendous variety including songbirds, shore birds, waterfowl and birds of prey including the Bald and Golden Eagle, Pelicans and Trumpeter Swans.

Halvorson says hunters and photographers from around the globe know the district's reputation for its trophy moose, elk, deer and bear as well as ducks and geese.

A wide variety of golf courses are located throughout the area. RV and camping sites are plentiful.

Events for the whole area include the lively PeaceFest, a unique PowWow and the spectacular Peace Region Air Show. A host of quad rallies, rodeos, heritage tours and heritage events take place throughout the year, all across the region that will keep all types of visitors entertained.

And you certainly won't want to miss a visit to one of the area's beautiful and pristine provincial parks.

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NATURAL BEAUTY

A veritable network of clear, clean lakes and rivers attract campers, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts seeking a true wilderness adventure. The whole area is a wonderful showcase for the contrasting seasons.

Wonderfully lush green springs fed by an abundance of water sources; long warm days canopied by big blue skies and radiant sunsets that last long into the evening; autumns filled with glowing red, orange and yellow forests that let out an orchestra of colour which compete with the area's sunsets; and crisp, cold white winters that truly represent northern living.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The joining of the Peace and the Smoky rivers is called Sagitawa -the meeting of the rivers -and this viewpoint of the valley is positively stirring. The name for the Peace River (Unchaga, which means Peace in Beaver) came from the late 1700s when rivals Cree and Beaver tribes made a truce at Peace Point.

Up and down the river, European explorers set up forts and trading posts to capitalize on the great riches of the surrounding areas.

ART Colour Photo: Photo Courtesy Travel Alberta / The town of Peace River straddles the river that bears the same name

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